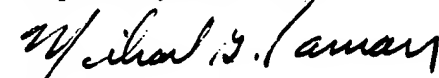


Enclosed herewith are facsimile copies of Declarations under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131(a) by each of the inventors in the instant application. It is noted that the patent to Miedema has an effective filing date of June 7, 1996. As stated by the applicants in their Declarations, their invention was conceived prior to June 7, 1996 and the inventors were diligent in preparing and filing the parent application, Application Serial No. 08/864,138 filed May 28, 1997, of which the present application is a continuation application that claims benefit of the earlier filed parent application. Therefore, the Miedema patent is not a reference which can be used in rejecting any claims of the present application. As all the remaining claims are rejected solely on the Miedema patent, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are allowable over the prior art of record. Thus a favorable action allowing the claims is respectfully requested.

In the event that the Examiner is of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite allowance and issuance of this application, he is invited to call the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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